REMARKS

Claims 21 – 23, 25, 26 and 28 – 38 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 21, 30 and 33 have been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by this amendment. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at least at page 3, line 30 – page 4, line 5 and page 5, line 27 – page 6, line 7. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy extended to their representative in a telephone interview dated February 5, 2009. In the interview, the Examiner's treatment of the claims 21, 25, 30 and 33 was discussed. Additionally, the Examiner and her Supervisor suggested claim language that would overcome the applied art. More specifically, the allowable claim features of claim 36 were discussed. By the present amendment, Applicants have amended claim 21 similar to language used in allowable claim 36.

Additionally, the Examiner suggested specifying that the video program in progress is viewed in a background and the summary frames are in the foreground, and that the selecting the channel occurs in the background. By the present amendment, claims 30 and 33 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

With regard to claim 25, the Examiner's assertion that Goldberg discloses, suggests or is modifiable to playback a multimedia presentation at normal speed was discussed. Specifically, Applicants submitted that Goldberg does not disclose, teach or suggest this feature, and that modifying Goldberg to provide playback of a multimedia presentation at normal speed would

render Goldberg unsuitable for its intended purpose. However, no agreement was reached with regard to this issue.

Entry of Amendment Proper

Applicants submit that the entry of the above amendment is proper. Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment is proper, since such amendment places the application in condition for allowance or, alternatively, places the application in better form for appeal. No new claims are added. Additionally, no new issues are presented that need further search and/or consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 36 is allowed.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 30, 34, 35 and 38[1] were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,732,369 issued to Schein et al. ("Schein"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To anticipate a claim, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. MPEP § 2131. Applicants submit that Schein does not disclose all of the features of the claimed invention.

[1] Applicants note that claim 38 is improperly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). That is, claim 38 depends from independent claim 25, which was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 38 cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Additionally, Applicants note that in the body of the rejection, the Examiner does not address claim 38, but rather, the Examiner addresses claim 37. However, Applicants note that claim 37 is improperly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). That is, claim 37 depends from independent claim 21, which was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 37 cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Independent Claim 30

The present invention relates to a video viewing system and method. Claim 30 recites, in pertinent part:

> . . . displaying said video program in progress in a background and said summary frames in a foreground on a screen of a display device at a same time with said video program in progress when a viewer changes channels to said video program in progress in the background from a video program on another channel in the background.

Applicants submit that each of these features are not disclosed by Schein. For example, Applicants submit that Schein does not disclose displaying said video program in progress in a background and said summary frames in a foreground on a screen of a display device at a same time with said video program in progress when a viewer changes channels to said video program in progress in the background from a video program on another channel in the background.

Schein discloses a system and method for providing television schedule information to a viewer, and for allowing the viewer to link, search, select and interact with information in a remote database, e.g., a database on the internet. In addressing previously presented claim 30, the Examiner asserts that Schein discloses displaying said video program in progress and said summary frames on a screen of a display device at a same time with said video program in progress when a viewer changes channels to said video program in progress from a video program on another channel at column 23, lines 37 – 39 and Figures 17B and 17C. More specifically, the Examiner states:

> Therefore a user can scroll to another channel and then arrive back at the currently tuned channel, wherein when the viewer arrives back at the currently tuned channel on the info menu, the preview corresponding to the program in progress is displayed in the preview area (528).

However, with the Examiner's above scenario, the channel changes in Schein are occurring within the video program guide (VPG). That is, the channel changes are occurring in the foreground. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Schein does not disclose displaying said video program in progress in a background and said summary frames in a foreground on a screen of a display device at a same time with said video program in progress when a viewer changes channels to said video program in progress in the background from a video program on another channel in the background.

Thus, for at least this reason, Applicants submit that Schein does not disclose each of the features of claim 30, and does not anticipate the present invention.

Dependent Claims 34 and 35

Claims 34 and 35 are dependent claims, depending from a distinguishable base claim. Thus, these claims should also be in condition for allowance based upon their dependencies.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 30, 34, 35 and 38 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 21 – 23 and 31 – 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein. Claims 25, 26, 28, 29 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,692,213 issued to Goldberg et al. ("Goldberg") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,376 issued to Connelly ("Connelly"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting any *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness. If the examiner does not produce a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to submit evidence of nonobviousness. See MPEP §2142. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings.[2] Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Applicants submit that the combination of references do not teach or suggest each of the features of the instant invention and that with respect to claim 25, that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the reference in the manner asserted.

Independent Claim 21 over Schein

Independent claim 21 recites, in pertinent part:

> means for selecting a programming channel containing video program in progress;
> a display screen for viewing a video program in progress; and

[2] While the *KSR* court rejected a rigid application of the teaching, suggestion, or motivation ("TSM") test in an obviousness inquiry, the [Supreme] Court acknowledged the importance of identifying "a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does" in an obviousness determination. *Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd. v. Alphapharm Pty., Ltd.*, 492 F.3d 1350, 1356-1357 (Fed. Cir. 2007) (quoting *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S.Ct. 1727, 1731 (2007)).

at least one summary frame also displayed on said display screen overlaid onto said video program in progress at a same time when said programming channel is changed, said at least one summary frame comprising a past frame from said video program in progress,

wherein the at least one summary frame comprises a plurality of said summary frames each corresponding to said video program in progress; and

further comprising at least one preview frame comprising a future frame from said video program in progress relative to a real-time broadcast of the video program in progress simultaneously displayed with the at least one summary frame on said display screen overlaid onto said video program in progress.

In addressing previously presented claims 21, the Examiner asserted that Schein teaches each of the features of the present invention except for the preview window comprising both of at least a past frame and a preview frame comprising a future frame from a video program in progress relative to a real time broadcast of the video program in progress. However, the Examiner takes official notice that "video previews are well known in the art that comprise a plurality of video snippets/cuts from various points of a program."

With regard to the Examiner's official notice, Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that MPEP 2144.03 specifically explains that "[o]fficial notice unsupported by documentary evidence should only be taken by the examiner where the facts asserted to be well-known, or to be common knowledge in the art are capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known." Applicants submit that facts asserted by the Examiner to be well-known, or to be common knowledge in the art are not capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner produce documentary evidence to support the Examiner's assertions of official notice.

Furthermore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the system of Schein to include a preview of the program comprising cuts from various points of a program so that the preview shows an effective indication of the content of a program. Thus, the Examiner asserts that there exist scenarios where the preview comprises cuts that are future with respect to the real time broadcast.

However, Applicants submit that Schein does not teach or suggest each of the features of claim 21, and does not render the present invention unpatentable. For example, Applicants submit that Schein does not teach or suggest at least one preview frame comprising a future frame from said video program in progress relative to a real-time broadcast of the video program in progress simultaneously displayed with the at least one summary frame on said display screen overlaid onto said video program in progress. That is, even with the Examiner's above-described scenario, Schein only discloses one preview window in the VPG showing a single instant of time in the program in progress. As such, Applicants submit that Schein does not teach or suggest at least one preview frame comprising a future frame from said video program in progress relative to a real-time broadcast of the video program in progress simultaneously displayed with the at least one summary frame on said display screen overlaid onto said video program in progress.

Thus, for at least this reason, Applicants submit that Schein does not teach or suggest each of the features of claim 21, and does not render the instant invention unpatentable.

Independent Claim 33 over Schein

Independent claim 33 recites, in pertinent part:

> . . . selecting a plurality of summary frames depicting selected events from said video program prior to a broadcast transmission of the video program;
>
> embedding said summary frames in said video program;

> transmitting said video program comprising said summary frames over a media;
>
> simultaneously displaying said video program in a background and said summary frames in a foreground on a screen of a display device when a viewer selects said video program displayed in the background;
>
> writing selected frames from said selecting step only in a row direction of a table; and
>
> reading said selected frames from said table only in a column direction to interleave said summary frames displayed on said screen.

In addressing previously presented claim 33, the Examiner asserts that Schein discloses simultaneously displaying said video program and said summary frames on a screen when a viewer selects said video program at column 23, lines 37 – 39 and Figures 17B and 17C. More specifically, the Examiner states:

> Therefore a user can scroll to another channel and then arrive back at the currently tuned channel, wherein when the viewer arrives back at (and therefore selects) the currently [sic] program on the info menu, the preview corresponding to the program in progress is displayed in the preview area (528).

However, with the Examiner's above scenario, the selecting the video program in Schein is occurring within the video program guide (VPG). That is, the selection of video program is occurring in the foreground, and not in the background. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Schein does not teach or suggest simultaneously displaying said video program in a background and said summary frames in a foreground on a screen of a display device when a viewer selects said video program displayed in the background, as recited in claim 33.

Thus, for at least this reason, Applicants submit that Schein does not disclose each of the features of claim 33, and does not anticipate the present invention.

Additionally, in addressing claim 33, the Examiner takes official notice that "video previews are well known in the art that comprise a plurality of video snippets/cuts from various

points of a program." Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that MPEP 2144.03 specifically explains that "[o]fficial notice unsupported by documentary evidence should only be taken by the examiner where the facts asserted to be well-known, or to be common knowledge in the art are capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known." Applicants submit that facts asserted by the Examiner to be well-known, or to be common knowledge in the art are not capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner produce documentary evidence to support the Examiner's assertions of official notice.

Dependent Claims 22, 23, 31 and 32 over Schein

Claims 22, 23, 31 and 32 are dependent claims, depending from respective distinguishable base claims. Thus, these claims should also be in condition for allowance based upon their respective dependencies.

Claim 31

Claim 31 recites, in pertinent part:

> . . .displaying a video segment corresponding to a particular summary frame when said summary frame is selected by a viewer; and
> resuming said video program in progress when said video segment has finished.

In addressing claim 31, the Examiner takes official notice that providing playback control of previews as well as playback control on live video programming (time shifted viewing) was well known in the art at the time of the invention. Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that MPEP 2144.03 specifically explains that "[o]fficial notice

unsupported by documentary evidence should only be taken by the examiner where the facts asserted to be well-known, or to be common knowledge in the art are capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known." Applicants submit that facts asserted by the Examiner to be well-known, or to be common knowledge in the art are not capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner produce documentary evidence to support the Examiner's assertions of official notice.

Additionally, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the system of Schein "to allow [the] interaction of the preview window by providing playback control of the preview so that a user can interact with playback of the preview." Furthermore, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to modify the system of Schein "to provide the user with the ability to provide playback control for the main video program in progress that allows [the] user to pause the video program in progress while viewing the other information (such as the program guide), thereby ensuring [that] the viewer does not miss portions of the program while his attention is at [sic] directed to the preview and allowing the user to resume the playback from pause when the viewer has finished watching the preview." Applicants disagree with the Examiner's above assertions and submit that the Examiner has not addressed the recited features of claim 31.

In addressing independent claim 30, from which claim 31 depends, the Examiner states (emphasis added):

> Schein further discloses wherein the at least one summary frame is a short preview video (see column 22, lines 50 – 56, wherein <u>it is noted that a short preview is a video preview comprising a plurality of video frames</u>), . . .

Thus, Applicants submit that the Examiner has designated the recited summary frames as those frames that collectively make-up the video preview of Schein.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Schein to display a video segment corresponding to a particular summary frame when said summary frame is selected by a viewer, as recited in claim 31. That is, the Examiner-designated summary frames (i.e., the individual frames that together make-up the video preview) of Schein are not selectable by a user.

Moreover, assuming *arguendo* that a summary frame is selectable (which Applicants do not concede), as Schein is already playing a video preview (comprising the Examiner-designated summary frames), Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to one of skill in the art to modify Schein to display a video segment corresponding to a particular summary frame when said summary frame is selected by a viewer, as recited in claim 31.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner did not address the features of claim 31 as recited. That is, the Examiner did not assert that it would have been obvious to modify Schein such that Schein displays a video segment corresponding to a particular summary frame when said summary frame is selected by a viewer, or to modify Schein to resume said video program in progress when said video segment has finished. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not addressed the features of claim 31. Therefore, as discussed further below, Applicants submit that the Examiner has not set forth a complete action or a clear record.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Schein does not teach or suggest each of the features of claim 31 and does not render the present invention unpatentable.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 21 – 23 and 31 – 33 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 25 over Goldberg in view of Connelly

Independent claim 25 recites, in pertinent part:

> . . . a display screen for viewing a video program;
> at least one summary frame displayed on said display screen at a same time and overlaid with said video program when a programming channel is changed, said at least one summary frame comprising one of a past or future frame from said video program; and
> a control means for allowing a user to change said video program and for allowing said user to select said at least one summary frame to play at least a segment of said video program corresponding to said selected summary frame,
> wherein the at least one summary frame comprises a plurality of said summary frames each corresponding to said video program in progress, and
> wherein said summary frames remain on said display screen when said video program is preempted.

In addressing claim 25, the Examiner asserted that Goldberg in view of Connelly teaches or suggests each of the features of the present invention and that it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to modify Goldberg and combine these references to arrive at instant invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that it would not be obvious to modify Goldberg in the manner asserted and that Goldberg in view of Connelly does not teach or suggest each of the features of claim 25, and does not render the present invention unpatentable. More specifically, Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to modify Goldberg to playback at a real-time speed, as this modification would at least render Goldberg unsuitable for its intended purpose. Additionally, Applicants submit that Goldberg in view of Connelly does not teach or suggest

wherein said summary frames remain on said display screen when said video program is preempted.

Goldberg Teaches Away from being Modified in the Manner Asserted

In addressing claim 25, the Examiner notes that Goldberg discloses that the programs may be displayed at a rate selected by the user at column 7, lines 21 – 23. Applicants have reproduced column 7, lines 18 – 23 below, which states (emphasis added):

> The present invention slows down the accelerated playback speed automatically when it is close to catching up to the real-time presentation. This provides a very smooth transition from accelerated replay to real-time. In one embodiment, the user can select the rate at which the recorded information is replayed.

Additionally, Goldberg discloses at column 1, lines 36 – 54 that (emphasis added):

> The present invention solves two problems that can occur with live-transmission multimedia presentations. The first problem arises when a person is viewing the meeting from the beginning and wants to go back to review something while the meeting is in progress without missing anything. A second problem is where a person wants to join a meeting in progress and needs to be brought up-to-date with what has already transpired.
>
> To solve these problems, the present invention provides for a portion of a live multimedia presentation to be recorded and played back at an accelerated speed until the user catches up to the real-time presentation. The ability to record a presentation and play it back while the presentation is still in progress also allows a user to peruse and "join" a meeting already going on. When a portion of a multimedia presentation is missed, the present invention allows the user to return to the starting point of the missed information and begin watching the information at an accelerated rate until the user catches up to the real-time presentation.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Goldberg is directed to playing a portion of a multimedia presentation at an accelerated speed until the user catches up to a real-time

presentation. While acknowledging that Goldberg discloses that in an embodiment, the user may select the playback speed, Applicants respectfully submit that Goldberg is merely disclosing that a user may select the rate of accelerated playback. That is, Applicants submit that the above Examiner-cited passage should be taken in context of the entire document, which is explicitly directed to an accelerated playback of a multimedia presentation. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Goldberg does not disclose, teach or suggest that a user can select a normal playback rate, as the Examiner asserts.

Further, Applicants note that a prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention. *W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). Applicants note that if a proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Additionally, Applicants note that if the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious. *In re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959).

Applicants submit that modifying Goldberg in the manner asserted by the Examiner, by allowing a user to select a normal playback rate, would render Goldberg unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. That is, as discussed above, Goldberg is explicitly directed to providing an accelerated playback speed to catch a viewer up to a real-time presentation. However, were Goldberg to be modified in the manner asserted, a viewer would never catch up to the real-time presentation. As such, Applicants submit that the Examiner-proposed modification of Goldberg

would render Goldberg unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification.

Additionally, Applicants submit that modifying Goldberg in the manner asserted would change the principle of operation of Goldberg. That is, as discussed above, Goldberg is directed to providing an accelerated playback to catch a viewer up to a real-time presentation. However, were Goldberg to be modified in the manner asserted, by presenting the video playback at a normal speed, a viewer would never catch up to the real-time presentation. As such, Applicants submit that the Examiner-proposed modification of Goldberg would change the principle of operation of Goldberg. Thus, Applicants submit that the teachings of Goldberg are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious.

Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to modify Goldberg to provide a normal playback speed, and Goldberg in view of Connelly does not render the present invention unpatentable.

Goldberg in view of Connelly Does Not Teach or Suggest Summary Frames Remain on Display Screen When Video Program Preempted

Additionally, assuming *arguendo* that a user can select a normal playback speed (which Applicants do not concede), Applicants submit that Goldberg in view of Connelly does not teach or suggest that the summary frames remain on said display screen when said video program is preempted. In addressing this feature, the Examiner states:

> Therefore, in the event [the] user views the program after playback has commenced, and selects to view the program at a normal playback rate, the transmission of the program completes prior to the viewer having completed watching the program. The summary frames are accordingly displayed until the viewer has completed watching the program, even though the transmission of the program has preempted.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants note that in addressing claim 25, the Examiner designates the recited video program as that being shown in the background of the screen display 220. Further, Goldberg discloses at column 4, lines 47 – 49, that:

> . . . the portion of the screen 220 outside window 222 shows the screen image specified by the indicator 238.

Thus, Applicants submit that the recited video program is the video displayed in the background of the screen display 220, which is the specified by the indicator 238, and not a transmission of the program, as the Examiner asserts. Thus, Applicants submit that video program is that displayed in the background of the screen display 220 is never preempted, as it will always display the screen image specified by the indicator 238. That is, even if the transmission of the program has stopped, i.e., the multimedia presentation has ended and is no longer being recorded in storage such that Goldberg can present the multimedia presentation to a viewer, Applicants submit that this does not constitute a preemption of the recited video program, as the Examiner asserts.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Goldberg in view of Connelly does not teach or suggest wherein said summary frames remain on said display screen when said video program is preempted, as recited in claim 25.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Goldberg in the manner asserted and Goldberg in view of Connelly does not teach or suggest each of the features of claim 25, and does not render the present invention unpatentable.

Dependent Claims 26, 28, 29 and 38 over Goldberg in view of Connelly

Claims 26, 28, 29 and 38 are dependent claims, depending from a distinguishable base claim. Accordingly, these claims should also be in condition for allowance based upon their dependencies.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection over claims 25, 26, 28, 29 and 38 be withdrawn.

Complete Action Not Provided

The Examiner is respectfully reminded of the guidance provided by MPEP § 2143.03, which states:

> All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art. *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Applicants submit that each of the claim features was not addressed in rejecting claim 31. More specifically, as discussed above, in addressing claim 31, the Examiner did not assert that it would have been obvious to modify Schein such that Schein displays a video segment corresponding to a particular summary frame when said summary frame is selected by a viewer, or to modify Schein to resume said video program in progress when said video segment has finished, as recited in claim 31. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not addressed the features of claim 31. Additionally, as noted above in footnote 1, Applicants submit that the Examiner has not properly rejected claim 37.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not set forth a complete action or a clear record.

For these reasons, Applicants submit that a clear issue was not developed between the Examiner and Applicants. More specifically, MPEP §706 states:

> Before final rejection is in order a clear issue should be developed between the examiner and applicant. To bring the prosecution to as speedy conclusion as possible and at the same time to deal justly by both the applicant and the public, the invention as disclosed and claimed should be thoroughly searched in the first action and the references fully applied; and in reply to this action the applicant should amend with a view to avoiding all the grounds of rejection and objection.

Additionally, MPEP 706.07(a) notes:

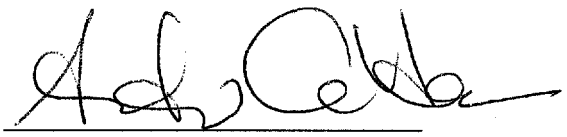
> Under present practice, second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, except where the examiner introduces a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p). ...
>
> Furthermore, a second or any subsequent action on the merits in any application ... will not be made final if it includes a rejection, on newly cited art, other than information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17 (p), of any claim not amended by applicant or patent owner in spite of the fact that other claims may have been amended to require newly cited art.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner address the untreated features of claim 31 and properly address claim 37, such that a clear issue is developed between the Examiner and Applicants. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the finality of the instant action should be withdrawn and the next action, which should clarify the record, should not be a final action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the applied prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,
Boon-Lock YEO



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